

Message Text

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65/11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

SAM-01 ACDA-05 ERDA-05 SSM-03 OES-03 AID-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /091 W

----- 122170

R 131438Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0195

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1129

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 1129 VICE 1128)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, IS, US

SUBJECT: CAYAN FAVORS ISRAELI NUCLEAR OPTION

1. FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN TOLD BNAI BRITH GROUP IN TEL AVIV FEBRUARY 11 THAT ISRAEL SHOULD TRY TO ACHIEVE THE OPTION OF A NUCLEAR DETERRENT "WITHOUT THE AID OR CONTROL OF THE UNITED STATES. DAYAN ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ISRAEL SHOULD BUILD A MISSILE OF THE PERSHING TYPE, CAPABLE OF FIRING A CONVENTIONAL WARHEAD A DISTANCE OF 400 KILOMETERS, TO SERVE AS A DETERRENT TO EGYPT AND SYRIA. THESE TWO COUNTRIES COULD HIT VITAL AREAS IN ISRAEL WITH SOVIET MISSILES IN THEIR POSSESSION. "WE DO NOT NEED THE PERSHING TO INSTALL AN ATOMIC WARHEAD, AND WHOEVER SAYS SO IS BEING MISLEADING. AN ATOM BOMB CAN BE DROPPED FROM AN AIRCRAFT." DAYAN SAID THAT THE NUCLEAR OPTION AND LONG-RANGE MISSILE WERE NEEDED FOR "ONE SIMPLE REASON--OUR LIVES DEPEND ON
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OUR ABILITY TO DEFEND OURSELVES." ISRAEL HAS ASKED THE

U.S. FOR THE PERSHING,BUT THE REQUEST HAS BEEN SHELVED
TEMPORARILY (JERUALEM POST FEBRUARY 13)

2. IN SAME SPEECH, DAYAN RENEWED HIS CRITICISM OF RECENT
U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY AND HIS OPPOSITION TO SINAI II. DAYAN
MAINTAINED THAT THE U.S. COULD NOT TELL ISRAEL WHAT LINES IT
SHOULD WITHDRAW TO SINCE AMERICANS THEMSELVES ADMITTED THAT
THEY DID NOT WANT TO BE "POLICEMEN OF THE WORLD."IN SUCH
CIRCUMSTANCES, ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE WHERE IT
COULD HOPE TO MAKE THE BEST STAND. AT THE SAME TIME, DAYAN
EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT U.S. WAS STILL IN A POSITION TO
TRY TO REDUCE MIDDLE EAST TENSION BY USING ITS INFLUENCE
WITH EGYPT AND SYRIA AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT AMERICAN GOOD-WILL WAS
IMPORTANT FOR THE DEFENSE OF ISRAEL (JERUSALEM POST FEBRUARY 12).

3. IN CASE THERE IS ANY DOUBT ABOUT WHERE DAYAN STANDS THESE
DAYS, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT HE HAS HAILED SHARPLY CRITICAL
ARTICLE BY DEFMIN PERES' FORMER CHIEF ADVISOR (YUVAL
NEEMAN) ON U.S./ISRAELI ARMS PROCURMENT DIFFICULTIES AS
RIGHT ON THE MARK (TEL AVIV 1065). ALL OTHER ARTICLES ON
THE SUBJECT, DAYAN HAS SAID, ARE MERELY THE SHELL WITHOUT
THE CONTENT.

4. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT NEEMAN, LIKE DAYAN, BELIEVES THAT
ISRAEL SHOULD GO FOR A NUCLEAR OPTION, LEADING ONE SHARP LEFT-
WING CRITIC TO CHARACTERIZE HIM THIS WEEK AS ISRAEL'S
"DR. STRANGELOVE." NEEMAN'S CRITICAL ARTICLE--WHICH
APPEARED IN HAARETZ FEBRUARY 6--HAS STRUCK RESPONSIVE
CHORD IN RIGHTWING CIRCLES. HAARETZ MANAGING EDITOR HAS
TOLD US THAT REPRESENTATIVE OF AN (UNIDENTIFIED) ORGANIZA-
TION CALLED HIM TO REQUEST PERMISSION TO REPRINT 45,000
COPIES. EDITOR SAID HAARETZ COULD NOT BLOCK THIS PROVIDED THE
REPUBLICATION CARRIED ITS OWN LETTERHEAD AND MADE CLEAR
THAT THIS WAS NOT AN INITIATIVE BY THE NEWSPAPER.

5. PUBLICATION OF DAYAN'S REMARKS ON ISRAELI NUCLEAR
OPTION ALSO REFLECT ON ERRACTIC POLICIES
OF THE MILITARY CENSOR. CHAIRMAN OF ISRAEL JOURNALISTS
ASSOCIATION TOLD US FEBRUARY 12 THAT NUCLEAR REFERENCES
HAS BEEN CUT OUT BY CENSOR. THIS DECISION EITHER WAS
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REVERSED OR THE POST'S SUBSEQUENT REPORT SLIPPED BY
UNNOTICED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETERRENCE, POLITICAL LEADERS, SPEECHES, NUCLEAR FORCES, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV01129
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760059-0429
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760248/aaaabqdt.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 OCT 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAYAN FAVORS ISRAELI NUCLEAR OPTION
TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, IS, US, (DAYAN, MOSHE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006